

**City of Santa Barbara**  
**COVID-19 Business Advisory Task Force**  
**January 29, 2021 Meeting Summary**

- A majority of the Business Advisory Task Force members were able to join and participate in the meeting with City staff.
- Mayor Murillo opened the meeting recognizing the recent actions of State in eliminating the regional stay-at-home order and transition the county back into the tier system.
- City Administrator Paul Casey stated that the majority of business activities represented by tax revenues were down with the exception of property tax through residential sales was strong and the City was continuing to assist businesses with parklets.
- Jason Harris with the City gave an update on the City's intent to extend the Emergency Economic Recovery Ordinance from March until September, that the City subcommittee on State Street visioning effort was being finalized and is set to be presented to Council this spring and the City was coordinating with all the business resource organizations to ensure businesses were being provided with the assistance needed. Task Force members asked the status of temporary eviction moratoriums for commercial tenants and if the 400 block of State Street could be closed.
- Nancy Anderson with the County provided an overview of the County's Reopening now that the region was back in the county tier system. She stated that the county was in the purple tier, the lowest of the four tiers, that the public health metrics would need to improve to move up to the next restrictive tier. She added that the vaccine distribution was transitioning from the county to a state partnership with Blue Cross.
- Representatives from the various business organizations including Downtown Santa Barbara, Economic Development Collaborative, Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, Hospitality Santa Barbara, Women's Economic Ventures and Visit Santa Barbara gave short updates on their organizations efforts to support businesses and various initiatives that they were implementing. Each organization had various efforts such as: business promotion; business assistance and information distribution; identifying the needs in various parts of the city; helping businesses pivot to on-line operations; promotion of Southwest Airlines service into Santa Barbara; and need to ensure the stimulus programs are being accessed.
- In addition, several task force members provided updates regarding topics such as: the increasing retail vacancy in downtown approach 20%; the new Chamber initiative called the Santa Barbara Economic Development Partnership, at [www.sbedp.org](http://www.sbedp.org), focused on downtown business recruitment; the need to support other commercial districts throughout the City beyond State Street; and the challenging state of the leisure market which had its worst year on record.